

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 310745Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6771
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 4111

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, YO, GW
SUBJ: FRG TERRORISTS IN YUGOSLAVIA

1. ON THE BASIS OF BBC/VOA REPORTS MORNING OF MAY 30 THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE BAADER-MEINHOF TERRORIST GROUP HAD BEEN ARRESTED IN YUGOSLAVIA, WE APPROACHED FRG EMBASSY HERE FOR INFORMATION. FRG CONSUL TOLD EMBOFF THAT EMBASSY HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY THE NEWS AND ON SEEKING INFORMATION FROM BONN HAD BEEN TOLD THAT EMBASSY WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE INVOLVED--THAT THE ENTIRE MATTER WOULD BE HANDLED DIRECTLY FROM BONN.

2. CONSUL CLAIMS HE DOES NOT KNOW WHO THE INDIVIDUALS IN QUESTION ARE, WHEN OR WHERE THEY WERE ARRESTED, OR WHERE THEY ARE NOW BEING HELD IN YUGOSLAVIA. HE TERMED THIS "FORTUNATE," AND SAID "APPARENTLY THE YUGOSLAVS ARE MAKING SOME DEMANDS" AND THE ISSUE WILL BE VERY COMPLEX. HE FELT THAT
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DIRECT DEALINGS WOULD BE QUICKER AND MORE LIKELY SUCCESSFUL. HE CONTRASTED THE RELEASE LAST YEAR BY FRENCH AUTHORITIES OF THE PALESTINIAN TERRORIST SOUGHT BY FRG BECAUSE THE FRENCH HAD NOT RECEIVED PROPER DOCUMENTS IN TIME. HE ADDED THAT WITH BONN HANDLING THE MATTER THERE WOULD BE FEWER SECURITY PROBLEMS FROM FRG EMBASSY HERE.

3. YUGOSLAV PAPERS ON MAY 30 CARRIED A RATHER VAGUE TANJUG REPORT THAT "COMPETENT YUGOSLAV ORGANS" HAD CONFIRMED THAT "SEVERAL" FRG CITIZENS HAD "RECENTLY" BEEN ARRESTED FOR "ILLEGALLY ENTERING YUGOSLAVIA" AND THAT EXTRADITION HAD BEEN REQUESTED. REPORT ALSO SPOKE OF THE "WELL ESTABLISHED PRACTICE OF MUTUAL EXTRADITION" BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND GERMANY AND NOTED THAT AT THIS TIME PROCEEDINGS ARE UNDERWAY TO EXTRADITE FROM FRG SEVERAL YUGOSLAVS WHO HAD COMMITTED TERRORIST ACTS AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA.

4. AS CONCERNS "WHEN", INTERIOR SECRETARIAT INTERPOL LIAISON PREDRAG MATOVIC WAS SUDDENLY CALLED OUT OF THE COUNTRY IN LATE APRIL AND UPON HIS RETURN CANCELLED A PLANNED VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES BECAUSE OF SOME "URGENT BUSINESS". MATOVIC TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WAS EXPECTING A DELEGATION FROM FRG TO DEAL WITH AN IMPORTANT CASE, AND NOTED THAT HE HOPED BY END OF MAY TO HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHEN HE COULD RESCHEDULE HIS VISIT. SINCE THESE DETAILS SEEM TO FIT THE PRESENT CASE IT IS POSSIBLE HE WAS INVOLVED AT THAT TIME.

5. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO LEARN OF ANY ADDITIONAL DETAILS DEVELOPED EITHER BY DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY BONN. EAGLEBURGER

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